

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Res. 306, Honoring Senator Tim Johnson.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S11083–S11127

Measures Introduced: Two bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2018–2019, and S. Res. 306–308. **Pages S1116–17**

Measures Reported:

S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers. (S. Rept. No. 110–150) **Page S1116**

Measures Passed:

Honoring Senator Tim Johnson: Senate agreed to S. Res. 306, concerning the return of Senator Tim Johnson. **Pages S11095–97**

Use of Capitol Rotunda and Grounds: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 196, authorizing the use of the rotunda and grounds of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama. **Page S11125**

Little League World Series: Senate agreed to S. Res. 308, congratulating the Warner Robins American Little League team of Warner Robins, Georgia, for winning the championship game of the Little League World Series. **Pages S11125–26**

Measures Considered:

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2008: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S11092–95, S11101–12

Adopted:

Reed (for Feingold) Amendment No. 2661, to require a report from the Comptroller General on the adequacy of mental health care services provided by

the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to female members of the Armed Forces and female veterans. **Pages S11107–08**

Reed (for Obama) Amendment No. 2658, to provide that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than \$5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee makes certain certifications regarding Federal tax liability. **Page S11108**

Reed (for McCaskill) Amendment No. 2660, to provide a mechanism by which individuals can report to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S11108**

Reed (for Murray) Amendment No. 2677, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transfer funds to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to train psychologists. **Page S11108**

Reed (for Landrieu) Amendment No. 2679, to require reports on the reconstruction of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, New Orleans, Louisiana. **Pages S11108–09**

Reed (for Stabenow/Levin) Amendment No. 2680, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic located in Alpena, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”. **Page S11109**

Reed (for Hutchison) Amendment No. 2681, to provide that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a major medical facility lease in fiscal year 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 to implement the recommendations outlined in the August, 2007 Study of South Texas Veterans’ Inpatient and Specialty Outpatient Health Care Needs. **Page S11109**

Reed (for Tester) Amendment No. 2669, to provide, with an offset, an additional \$125,000,000 for the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Program. **Page S11109**

Reed (for Stevens) Amendment No. 2682, to require a report on access to medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans who live in remote rural areas. **Pages S11109–10**

Reed (for Allard) Amendment No. 2688, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to modify certain instruments to allow the City of Aurora, State of Colorado, to convey to the United States certain non-Federal land to be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the construction of a veterans medical facility. **Page S11110**

Rejected:

DeMint Amendment No. 2686, to strike section 225, relating to a prohibition on the disposal of Department of Veterans Affairs lands and improvements at West Los Angeles Medical Center, California. (By 66 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 312), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S11102–07**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2007, that the following be the only first-degree amendments remaining in order to the bill, that they be subject to second-degree amendments which are relevant to the amendment to which it is offered: Sanders Amendment No. 2664, Salazar Amendment No. 2662, Brown Amendment No. 2673, a Coleman amendment relating to conventions, and McConnell Amendment No. 2666; that Senator Bunning be recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes; provided further, that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the Coleman amendment, with the time equally divided between Senators Coleman and Bunning, or their designees; provided further, that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to a vote in relation to all remaining amendments; that upon disposition of the Coleman amendment, the amendment vote sequence be the following: Sanders Amendment No. 2664, Salazar Amendment No. 2662, Brown Amendment No. 2673, a Coleman amendment relating to conventions, and McConnell Amendment No. 2666; provided further, that these amendments be disposed of with no further debate or motions in order, except for the debate specified above; provided further, that the previous order relating to points of order remaining in effect with respect to this bill; and that upon disposition of all amendments, the bill be read a third time, and Senate vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees; provided further, that upon disposition of the bill, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 2764, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. **Pages S11126–27**

eign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. **Pages S11126–27**

Migratory and Transboundary Fish Stocks—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. J. Res. 17, directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Justice. **Page S11125**

Messages from the House: **Page S11113**

Measures Referred: **Page S11113**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S11113**

Executive Communications: **Pages S11113–16**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S11117–19**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S11119–20**

Additional Statements: **Pages S11112–13**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S11120–24**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S11125**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S11125**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S11125**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—312) **Pages S11106–07**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:59 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S11126.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

UTAH MINE DISASTER

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Utah mine disaster, focusing on preventing future coal mining tragedies, after receiving testimony from Richard E. Stickler, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Administration; Cecil E. Roberts, United Mine Workers of America, Fairfax, Virginia; J. Davitt McAteer, Wheeling Jesuit University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia; and Bruce Watzman, National Mining Association, Washington, D.C.